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Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 MCT-02
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /068 W
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INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE
AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY PANAMA
AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANAGUA 4267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU
SUBJECT: ARCHIBSHOP OBANDO ON MEDIATION

SUMMARY: OBANDO INDICATED AGREEMENT ON NEED FOR OUTSIDE MEDIATION TO EXTRACT CONCESSIONS FROM SOMOZA AND INDICATED HE WOULD RAISE ISSUE WITH BISHOPS IN EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE MEETING LATER IN THE DAY, SEPTEMBER 11.

1. AMB AND POLOFF MET WITH ARCHBISHOP OBANDO Y BRAVO ON SEPTEMBER 11 TO DISCUSS THE COSTA RICAN MEDIATION INITIATIVE. AMB OUTLINED US PERCEPTPON OF NEED FOR OUTSIDE MEDIATION TO BREAK CURRENT IMPASSE AND TO SEEK PACIFIC SITUATION. HE EXPLAINED THAT FOR THIS REASON WE WERE BACKING THE CURRENT COSTA RICAN INITIATIVE AND BELIEVED SUPPORT FROM IMPORTANT LOCAL SECTORS SUCH AS THE CHURCH WOULD BE IMPORTANT TO ITS SUCCESS. OBANDO RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED THAT THE MEDIATION INITIATIVE WAS GOOD AND HE WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE
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OF HOW THE CHURCH SHOULD RESPOND IN THE EPISCOPAL CONFERENCE MEETPNG LATER THAT MORNING.

2. WHEN ASKED BY POLOFF WHETHER HE FELT POSSIBLE OPPOSITION BY THE FSLN TO A MEDIATION EFFORT WOULD JEAPARDIZE SUCH AN INITIATIVE, OBANDO SAID IT WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO TRY TO INCLUDE THE FSLN IN THE PROCESS.

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3. AMB EXPLAINED MEDIATION EFFORT WOULD HAVE TO BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS WITH AN OPEN AGENDA TO SEEK CONCESSIONS FROM BOTH GON AND OPPOSITPON. OBANDO ASKED IF SOMOZA ACCEPTED THE CONCEPT, AND AMB REPLIED THAT SOMOZA WAS ADAMENT ON SERVING UNTIL THE END OF HIS TERM AND APPARENTLY BELIEVED HE COULD MAINTAIN CONTROL.

4. OBANDO REFERRED TO FIVE PRIESTS WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY GN AND REGARDING WHOM HE HAD CALLED AMB ON SEPTEMBER 10 TO ASK EMB CONTACT GON TO EXPRESS CONCERN. POLOFF SAID GN HAD BEEN CONTACTED BY EMB. OBANDO SAID IT MUST HAVE HELPED BECAUSE PRIESTS WERE RELEASED THE SAME EVENING. HE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR EMB EFFORTS. OBANDO SAID THE US ROLE IN NICARAGUA REMAINS VERY IM-PORTANT AND HE VALUES THE CONTACTS WITH EMB.
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TAGS: PGOV, PINT, NU, CS, (OBANDO Y BRAVO, MIGUEL)
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